

Appln. No. 10/805,820
Amendment dated November 26, 2008
Reply to Office Action mailed October 14, 2008

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized method comprising:
initiating a telephone session, said telephone session operable to receive input signals and send output voice signals;
receiving a personal identification number (PIN) from a user initiating the telephone session, said personal identification number identifying one or more user identifications for one or more instant messaging (IM) clients;
converting, when the input signals comprise text data from the one or more instant messaging clients, the text data to output voice signals; and
converting, when the input signals are voice signals, the voice signals to text data and sending the text data to the one or more instant messaging clients.
2. (Original) The computerized method of claim 1, further comprising providing an online status for the one or more instant messaging clients to the telephone session.
3. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 1, further comprising establishing one or more IM sessions with one or more IM clients corresponding to the PIN.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 1, further comprising recognizing the voice signals as instant messaging commands, and when voice signals are recognized as instant messaging commands, then causing the converting of the voice signals to instant messaging command data.

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6. (Original) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein the input signals comprise keypad strokes.

7. (Original) The computerized method of claim 6, further comprising converting the keypad strokes signals to alphanumeric data and transmitting the alphanumeric data to the one or more instant messaging clients.

8. (Original) The computerized method of claim 6, further comprising converting the keypad strokes to instant messaging commands.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more instant messaging clients includes instant messaging clients selected from the group comprising AOL Instant Messenger, Yahoo Instant Messaging, ICQ, and MSN instant messaging.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein an instant messaging server is operable to receive said input signals and send said output voice signals.

11. (Previously Presented) A system for providing instant messaging, the system comprising:

an input module operable to receive input from a telephone;

a PIN management module operable to receive PIN data, said PIN data identifying an IM user;

an IM client module operable to establish an IM session with an IM client identified by the IM user; and

a text to speech module operable to convert text data to speech data for output to the telephone;

wherein the input module includes a speech to text module for receiving voice data from the telephone and converts the voice data to text data for output through the IM client module.

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12. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the input module includes a keypad input module for receiving keypad data from the telephone.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a PIN database operable to maintain data mapping a PIN to an IM user identification.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing a method, the method comprising:

initiating a telephone session, said telephone session operable to receive input signals and send output voice signals;

receiving a personal identification number (PIN) from a user initiating the telephone session, said personal identification number identifying one or more user identifications for one or more instant messaging (IM) clients;

establishing one or more instant messaging (IM) sessions with one or more IM clients that correspond to the received PIN upon receiving the PIN; and

converting text data from the one or more instant messaging clients to output voice signals.

16. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises providing an online status for the one or more instant messaging clients to the telephone session.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the input signals are voice signals.

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18. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises converting the voice signals to text data and sending the text data to the one or more instant messaging clients.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises recognizing the voice signals as instant messaging commands.

20. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the input signals comprise keypad strokes.

21. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the method further comprises converting the keypad strokes signals to alphanumeric data and transmitting the alphanumeric data to the one or more instant messaging clients.

22. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the method further comprises converting the keypad strokes to instant messaging commands.

23. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the one or more instant messaging clients includes instant messaging clients selected from the group comprising AOL Instant Messenger, Yahoo Instant Messaging, ICQ, and MSN instant messaging.

24. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein an instant messaging server is operable to receive said input signals and send said output voice signals.

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25. (Currently Amended) An instant messaging client system comprising:
an instant message (IM) client module; and
a proximity detector communicably coupled to the IM client module and operable to:
detect a change in the presence of an IM client user;
update an IM client status in accordance with the change in presence;
wherein the IM client module is selected from the group ~~group~~ comprising AOL Instant Messenger, Yahoo Instant Messaging, ICQ, and MSN instant messaging.

26. (Original) The instant message client system of claim 25, wherein the proximity detector includes an RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) detector.

27. (Original) The instant message client system of claim 25, wherein the proximity detector includes an ultrasonic detector.

28. (Original) The instant message client system of claim 25, wherein the proximity detector includes an infrared detector.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) A method for maintaining an IM client status, the method comprising:

detecting a change in proximity of a user of an IM client; and
updating an IM client status in accordance with the change in proximity;
wherein the IM client status is selected from the group comprising on-line and off-line.

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31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein detecting the change in proximity includes detecting that the user has come within a range of a proximity detector.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein detecting the change in proximity includes detecting that the user has exited a range of a proximity detector.

33. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein detecting the change in proximity includes determining a lack of activity on an input device.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein determining a lack of activity includes determining a lack of activity for a predetermined timeout period.

35. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein detecting the change in proximity includes determining the resumption of activity on an input device.

36. (New) The instant message client system of claim 25, wherein the proximity detector is operable to detect a change in physical proximity of the user to a computer on which the IM client module is operating.

37. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the detecting of a change in proximity of a user to the IM client comprises detecting a physical proximity of the user to a computer on which the IM client is loaded.